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LIMDIS/FOR MATTHEW NIMETZ ONLY

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TAGS: OVIP (NIMETZ, MATTHEW)

SUBJECT: NEWS REPORT

1. FOLLOWING IS FBIS REPORT THAT SHOULD BE OF INTEREST
TO YOU.

2. BEGIN TEXT. VIENNA DIE PRESSE IN GERMAN ON 31 AUGUST
CARRIES ON PAGE 3 A 1600-WORD DISPATCH FROM BUCHAREST BY
EDITORIAL STAFF MEMBER PAUL LENDVAI, ENTITLED: "ALL OF
BUCHAREST IS TALKING ABOUT PACEPA; ROMANIAN GENERALS LIVE
DANGEROUSLY." THE AUTHOR CLAIMS THAT "DURING HUA KUO-
FENG'S OFFICIAL FRIENDSHIP VISIT TO BUCHAREST, THE VISITOR
FROM THE WEST OFTEN HEARD THE NAME OF 'PACEPA' IN TALKS
WITH DIPLOMATS, JOURNALISTS AND POLITICALLY WELL-INFORMED
ACQUAINTANCES," AND THAT "ONLY THE AMERICAN DIPLOMATS
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REFUSED TO DISCUSS THE PERSON AND WHEREABOUTS OF MR. MIHAI
ION PACEPA." LENDVAI THEN REVIEWS THE STORY OF LT GEN
PACEPA, DESCRIBING HIM AS THE HIGHEST-RANKING EASTERN BLOC
SECRET SERVICE OFFICER EVER TO HAVE DEFECTED TO A WESTERN
COUNTRY, ASSERTING THAT, ALTHOUGH HE DEFECTED IN COLOGNE,
HE WAS IMMEDIATELY HIDDEN IN A "CONSPIRATIVE APARTMENT
OF THE CIA" AND THEN TAKEN BY MILITARY AIRCRAFT TO

WASHINGTON. AFTER REVIEWING PACEPA'S FORMER FUNCTIONS AND SOME RUMORS ABOUT HIS INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES, LENDVAI CONTINUES:

3. "IN EASTERN BLOC QUARTERS OF THE ROMANIAN CAPITAL IT IS BELIEVED THAT LT GEN PACEPA HAS BEEN AN AGENT OF THE AMERICANS 'AT LEAST SINCE 1970'. BUT, SINCE THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT HAS ALWAYS SUPPORTED ROMANIA'S COURSE OF INDEPENDENCE, PACEPA'S DEFECTION HAS MANEUVERED THE U.S. EMBASSY IN BUCHAREST INTO A MOST UNPLEASANT SITUATION.

4. "THE GENERAL'S DISAPPEARANCE HAS HAD THE EFFECT OF A POLITICAL BOMB WITHIN THE ROMANIAN LEADERSHIP. AS DIE PRESSE WAS TOLD SEMIOFFICIALLY, 'THIS AFFAIR IS BY NO MEANS CLOSED YET.'" LENDVAI NOTES AS INDICATIVE OF THE NERVOUSNESS AMONG THE BUCHAREST OFFICIAL HIERARCHY THE FACT THAT, FOLLOWING THE DEFECTION OF THE PARIS AGERPRES CORRESPONDENT IN PARIS IN THE FALL OF 1976, ALL PERMANENT PRESS CORRESPONDENTS ABROAD HAVE BEEN RECALLED, AND THAT SINCE THEN THE ONLY ROMANIAN CORRESPONDENT ABROAD IS IN MOSCOW.

5. LENDVAI THEN DISCUSSES ANOTHER ROMANIAN GENERAL WHOSE FATE "IS THE SUBJECT OF SPECULATION"--LT GEN ION DINCA,

LAST MENTIONED IN THE NEWS MEDIA 2 WEEKS AGO WHEN HE HANDED OVER THE SYMBOLIC "KEY TO THE CAPITAL" TO CCP LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CHAIRMAN HUA KUO-FENG IN HIS CAPACITY AS BUCHAREST PARTY CHAIRMAN AND MAYOR. ACCORDING TO LENDVAI, THIS OFFICER, FORMERLY THE HIGHEST POLITICAL COMMISSAR OF THE ARMY, IS NOW IN SOME DIFFICULTIES OWING TO THE RIOT THAT DEVELOPED ON 12 JULY AT THE UNIRII MARKET CLOSE TO THE CENTER OF THE CITY. SOME 4000-5000 PERSONS HAD GATHERED THERE, HE SAYS, AFTER A POLICEMAN BRUTUALLY CLUBBED A STUDENT WHO HAD DEFENDED A PREGNANT GYPSY WOMAN WHO WAS TRYING TO SELL FLOWERS WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION. ACCORDING TO LENDVAI, THE POLICEMAN SHOT SEVERAL PEOPLE WHEN HE WAS THREATENED BY THE CROWD AND WAS THEN BADLY BEATEN UP AND POSSIBLY KILLED BY THE RIOTERS. THE AREA WAS ENCIRCLED BY POLICE, AND GENERAL DINCA APPEARED PERSONALLY ON THE SCENE AND URGED THE ENRAGED PEOPLE TO CALM DOWN, PROMISING IN RETURN TO WITHDRAW THE POLICE. AT THAT MOMENT, LENDVAI CONTINUES, BUCHAREST WAS ON THE BRINK OF WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE GREATEST RIOTS SINCE THE COMMUNISTS CAME TO POWER. RUMORS ABOUT CEAUSESCU'S SUBSEQUENT CRITICISM OF GENERAL DINCA HAVE LED TO SPECULATIONS ABOUT THIS GENERAL'S POLITICAL FUTURE, LENDVAI WRITES.

6. LENDVAI THEN DISCUSSES A THIRD ROMANIAN GENERAL, ION

SERB--UNTIL THE END OF 1971 COMMANDER OF THE BUCHAREST GARRISON AND THEN PARLIAMENTARY DEPUTY AND SECRETARY OF THE STANDING DEFENSE COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENT, WHO ACCORDING TO WESTERN PRESS REPORTS, IN THE SPRING OF 1972 WAS SENTENCED TO DEATH FOR SPYING FOR THE SOVIET UNION, AND WAS SHOT. "NOW THE REPORTER (LENDVAI) LEARNED TO HIS GREATEST SURPRISE FROM TWO DIFFERENT ROMANIAN SOURCES THAT SERB IS AT PRESENT WORKING AS A TECHNICIAN SOMEWHERE IN BUCHAREST OR CLOSE TO THE CAPITAL. REPORTEDLY HE WAS MERELY HELD ON REMAND FOR A FEW MONTHS BUT WAS BY NO MEANS FOUND GUILTY OF ESPIONAGE." LENDVAI ADDS THAT SOME "FINANCIAL IRREGULARITIES" WERE MENTIONED IN THIS CONTEXT, BUT THAT IT IS NOT KNOWN WHETHER SERB WAS EVER SENTENCED AT ALL. WHEN HE ASKED HIS SOURCE WHY THE REPORTS ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SERB'S EXECUTION WERE NEVER DENIED, HIS INFORMANT TOLD HIM WITH AN IRONICAL SMILE THAT THE ROMANIAN SIDE HAD NEVER AT ANY TIME SAID ANYTHING ABOUT THESE SPECULATIONS.

7. LENDVAI STATES IN CONCLUSION: "INDEED, THE ROMANIAN PRESS DID NOT SAY ANYTHING, EITHER, ABOUT A LARGE FIRE THAT BROKE OUT IN THE BIG HALL OF THE NATIONAL THEATER AND OPERA, PRECISELY ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE HUA VISIT...." END TEXT. CHRISTOPHER

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